

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03063 151714Z

46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01

H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07

RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00

PRS-01 PA-04 NEAE-00 SAB-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /197 W

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P R 151602Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3429

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS BEIRUT 3063

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

USIA FOR IOP M IBS IPS INA

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR ENRG LE

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION: OIL EMBARGO ISSUE

1. REPORTED ALGERIAN PROPOSAL TO LIFT OIL EMBARGO AGAINST  
U S FOR TRIAL PERIOD OF TWO MONTHS EXTENSIVELY REPORTED  
AND COMMENTED UPON. IN BODY OF APPARENT "NEWS" STORY, PRO-MOSCOW  
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03063 151714Z

COMMUNIST PARTY ORGAN AN-NIDA' MAINTAINS ITS OPPOSITION TO

LIFTING OF EMBARGO AND CRITICIZES EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA  
FOR "GIVING MORE CONSIDERATION TO U S INTEREST THAN TO  
ARAB SOLIDARITY."

2. EDITORIALY, LEADING INDEPENDENT AN-NAHAR WRITES:  
"ACTUALLY, NO MATTER WHAT EGYPT'S AND SAUDI ARABIA'S  
CONSIDERATIONS IN LIFTING EMBARGO ARE, CONDITIONAL LIFTING  
REMAINS BETTER AND SAFER FOR ARABS UNTIL SUCH TIME AS IT  
IS ACTUALLY PROVED THAT WHAT KING FEISAL AND PRES  
SADAR ARE CONVINCED OF IN ADVANCE HAS BEGUN TO BE IMPLEMENTED...  
AMERICA HAS ANNOUNCED IT WILL PERSIST IN ITS PEACE EFFORTS  
REGARDLESS OF WHAT ARABS DECIDE CONCERNING OIL EMBARGO.  
CONDITIONAL LIFTING OF EMBARGO WILL BE BIGGEST TEST OF THIS  
AMERICAN TALK. IT WILL PERHAPS LEAD U S TO ACCEPT IDEA OF  
TIMETABLE FOR PEACE SETTLEMENT FOR WHICH ARABS ARE CALLING,  
BECAUSE OIL WILL CONTINUE TO BE NEEDED AND ITS EMBARGO WILL  
REMAIN POSSIBLE."

3. USUALLY PRO-SOVIET ASH SHA'B WRITES: "IF IT IS TRUE  
THAT TWO-MONTH RESPITE WILL BE GIVEN WASHINGTON TO IMPLEMENT  
ITS PROMISE, AS ALGERIA PROPOSED, ARAB SIDE WILL RISK  
NOTHING, BECAUSE WASHINGTON TALKS ON SEPARATION OF FORCES  
ARE SUPPOSED TO END WITHIN TWO MONTHS. NEWS OF RESPITE  
MAY OR MAY NOT BE ANNOUNCED. IT IS NOT GOOD POLICY TO  
CHALLENGE BIG POWERS EXCEPT IN TIME OF DESPAIR, AND  
SUPPORTERS OF LIFTING EMBARGO HAVE NOT REACHED POINT OF DESPAIR."

4. INDEPENDENT AL-BAYRAQ WRITES: "AS LONG AS ARAB OIL STATES  
CAN RE-IMPOSE EMBARGO AT ANY TIME, IT IS BETTER TO CONSIDER  
DECISION TO LIFT IT AS TRUCE OR AS GIVING OPPORTUNITY TO  
USG TO PROVE ITS GOOD INTENTIONS AND EXTENT OF ITS  
SINCERITY OR ABILITY TO BRING ISRAEL TO RETURN ARAB LANDS  
AND RIGHTS TO THEIR OWNERS. THIS TEST MAY NOT TAKE MORE  
THAN TWO MONTHS, AS ALGERIA SUGGESTS."

5. LEADING LEFTIST PRO-FEDAYEEN AL-MUHARRIR WRITES:  
"IF ARAB PEOPLES FELT DISTRESSED AND DEJECTED WHEN THEIR  
GOVTS DECIDED TO CEASE FIRING AGAINST ISRAELI ENEMY  
AT END OF OCT, THEIR FEELING OF SUBJUGATION AND  
DISAPPOINTMENT REACHED ITS PEAK ONLY YESTERDAY, WHEN  
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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 03063 151714Z

THEY SAW THESE GOVTS HURRYING PRECIPITATELY,  
THOUGHTLESSLY, AND FOOLISHLY TO DESTROY LAST WEAPON THEY  
WERE STILL BRANDISHING TO LIBERATE THE OCCUPIED ARAB  
TERRITORIES BY RECKLESSLY AGREEING TO LIFT EMBARGO AGAINST  
SHIPMENT OF OIL TO U S AND RACING TO THROW THEMSELVES IN  
ARMS OF NIXON AND KISSINGER.... WE WONDER, WHERE IS THIS  
ALLEGED CHANGE (IN U S POSITION)? BY WHAT CRITERION ARE  
ARAB RULERS MEASURING IT? THOSE WHO TALK ABOUT 'GOOD

INTENTIONS' OF U

S IMAGINE THAT ARAB PEOPLES ARE ILLERATE  
AND STUPID, UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND EVEN IF THEY CAN  
READ\* BUT THESE PEOPLES...REALIZE THAT AMERICA HAS NOT  
LESSENNED ITS ENMITY TOWARDS ARAB NATION. ON THE CONTRARY,  
IT HAS AKEN THIS ENMITY TO PEAK OF EXTREMISM. IT HAS EVEN GONE  
SO FAR AS TO THREATEN EUROPE BECAUSE IT DARED TO  
TAKE DECISION TO INITIATE DIALOGUE WITH ARABS ON ECONOMIC  
COOPERATION."

6. PRO-FEDAYEEN PRO-LIBYAN AL-LIWA' WRITES: "OIL WAS  
ADOPTED AS SOLE POLITICAL WEAPON IN POLITICAL AND  
DIPLOMATIC BATTLE DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE TWO MAIN GOALS:  
LIBERATION OF ALL ARAB TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN JUN, 1967  
AND SAFEGUARDING OF LEGITIMATE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF  
PALESTINIAN PEOPLE... IT IS OBVIOUS TO ALL... THAT THESE  
TWO GOALS HAVE NOT BEEN REACHED... SO, WHAT DOES LIFTING  
OF OIL BLOCKADE AGAINST AMERICA MEAN BUT SUBMISSION TO  
THREATS OF NIXON, HIS VICE-PRES, AND HIS SECRETARY  
OF STATE, 'OUR FRIEND KISSINGER'?"  
GODLEY

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